



## Thunderstorm-associated bronchial asthma: A forgotten but very present epidemic

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**Year:** 2007  
**Journal:** Journal of Family & Community Medicine. 14 (2): 47-51

### Abstract:

Acute episodes of bronchial asthma are associated with specific etiological factors such as air pollutants and meteorological conditions including thunderstorms. Evidence suggests that thunderstorm-associated asthma (TAA) may be a distinct subset of asthmatics, and, epidemics have been reported, but none from Saudi Arabia. The trigger for this review was the TAA epidemic in November 2002, Eastern Saudi Arabia. The bulk of patients were seen in the King Fahd Hospital of the University, Al-Khobar. The steady influx of acute cases were managed effectively and involved all neighboring hospitals, without evoking any "Major Incident Plan". Three groups of factors are implicated as causes of TAA: pollutants (aerobiologic or chemical) and meteorological conditions. Aerobiological pollutants include air-borne allergens: pollen and spores of molds. Their asthma-inducing effect is augmented during thunderstorms.

**Source:** Ask your librarian to help locate this item.

### Resource Description

#### Communication:

resource focus on research or methods on how to communicate or frame issues on climate change; surveys of attitudes, knowledge, beliefs about climate change

A focus of content

#### Communication Audience:

audience to whom the resource is directed

Health Professional

#### Early Warning System:

resource focus on systems used to warn populations of high temperatures, extreme weather, or other elements of climate change to prevent harm to health

A focus of content

#### Exposure :

weather or climate related pathway by which climate change affects health

Air Pollution, Extreme Weather Event, Meteorological Factors, Meteorological Factors, Precipitation,

# Climate Change and Human Health Literature Portal

Temperature

**Air Pollution:** Allergens, Interaction with Temperature, Ozone, Particulate Matter

**Geographic Feature:** ☒

resource focuses on specific type of geography

None or Unspecified

**Geographic Location:** ☒

resource focuses on specific location

Non-United States

**Non-United States:** Asia

**Asian Region/Country:** Other Asian Country

**Other Asian Country:** Saudi Arabia

**Health Impact:** ☒

specification of health effect or disease related to climate change exposure

Respiratory Effect

**Respiratory Effect:** Asthma

**Intervention:** ☒

strategy to prepare for or reduce the impact of climate change on health

A focus of content

**Medical Community Engagement:** ☒

resource focus on how the medical community discusses or acts to address health impacts of climate change

A focus of content

**Mitigation/Adaptation:** ☒

mitigation or adaptation strategy is a focus of resource

Adaptation

**Population of Concern:** A focus of content

**Other Vulnerable Population:** Young atopic adults

**Resource Type:** ☒

format or standard characteristic of resource

Review

**Timescale:** ☒

time period studied

Time Scale Unspecified

## **Vulnerability/Impact Assessment:**

resource focus on process of identifying, quantifying, and prioritizing vulnerabilities in a system

A focus of content